

2011 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

CITY COUNCIL CHARGE TO CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE:

The Charter Review Committee was charged by the City Council with looking at the following issues, and the Committee's scope of authority is limited to these issues only:

- 1. What are the pros and cons for Sunnyvale of changing the current selection process of an appointed Mayor to a directly-elected Mayor, and a recommendation to the Council on whether or not the City should have a directly-elected Mayor.**
- 2. Assuming that the City elects to proceed with a Charter amendment for a directly-elected Mayor, what should the Charter amendment language be, including the term and term limits.**
- 3. Review of current Charter language on Council compensation, and a recommendation on whether to retain current Charter provisions on Council compensation or recommend a Charter amendment changing the terms of Council compensation.**

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION POINTS FOR DIRECTLY-ELECTED MAYOR

The 2011 Charter Review Committee developed a preliminary discussion list of pros and cons for a directly-elected Mayor, and the Committee wants to hear public comment both on this list and on additional pros and cons that may not be on this list.

PROS FOR DIRECTLY-ELECTED MAYOR:

- May generate more voter awareness and turnout.
- Gives Sunnyvale more regional visibility and influence.
- Provides an enhanced leadership opportunity.
- Would be primary point of contact for the public.
- Higher visibility for the office of Mayor.
- More accountability of Mayor to the public.
- Empowers Sunnyvale citizens to choose the Mayor.

CONS FOR DIRECTLY-ELECTED MAYOR:

- Could cause conflict with City Council and City Manager.
- Mayor can't be removed except by recall election.
- Additional one-time expense for Charter amendment election.
- Enables candidate without civic experience to be elected Mayor.
- May change dynamics of Sunnyvale government.
- Potential to circumvent term limits.
- More susceptible to special interests.

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION ON COUNCIL COMPENSATION

Subject to review and revision after public comment and additional discussion, the 2011 Charter Review Committee's preliminary recommendation on the Charter provision on Council compensation is:

Proposed change to the current Charter provision which provides for an annual 5% adjustment to the current compensation, to a Charter provision providing for compensation set at the current level of \$2,088.64/month for Council members and \$2,784.86 for the Mayor, increased annually based on the Consumer Price Index for the Bay Area region, but not to exceed 5%.